



CALGARY

Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan

FEBRUARY 01, 2016

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are read by CBC news editor Natasha Frakes.

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures and functional language
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners, as well as an ESL classroom resource for instructors

Contents:

Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains vocabulary and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson, you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. This lesson plan is aimed towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 4-5 or equivalent).



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton, and the Government of Alberta. Lesson Plan is prepared by Kathleen Hall via Communication4Integration Inc.

© CBC 2015 Permission is granted to reproduce these pages for educational purposes only. For more information on copyright, please click: <http://www.cbc.ca/permissions>

NEWSCAST 1: STUDY SUGGESTS ONLY 4 OF YOUR FACEBOOK FRIENDS ACTUALLY CARE ABOUT YOU

The screenshot shows a Facebook 'Friends' section with 12 entries:

- Row 1: Lucy Schaefer (1,752 friends), Brian Gosselin (562 friends)
- Row 2: Laura Jenk (1,609 friends), Bryan Gosselin (1,499 friends)
- Row 3: Diane Langman (811 friends), Diane Lemire (2,305 friends)
- Row 4: Jessie Schaefer (4,811 friends), Bradlee Gosselin (584 friends)

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/trending/only-4-of-your-facebook-friends-actually-care-about-you-study-suggests-1.3420902>

WARM UP

Are you or members of your family on Facebook? If so, what do you like about Facebook? What do you dislike about Facebook?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Listen to Newscast 1, and underline the word that you hear: An example is done for you.

1. *if /whether* you have
2. *changes/chances* are some
3. *news/newly* published
4. study *suggests/supports*
5. *amongst/a monk* their connections
6. actually *deepen/depend*
7. in times of *crisis/Christmas*
8. the first real *effort/attempt*
9. social media *follows/allows*
10. *found/sound* to have
11. *this/those* surveyed
12. *meant/mean* of 4.1 people
13. *subjects/suspects* with more Facebook

(See answer key)

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Review the words and word combinations in the box below. You are given a simple definition of each word or word combination. Based on the definitions, try to understand the meanings of any new vocabulary.

Words and Word Combinations	Meaning
chances are	probably
the average	usual
amongst	including
connections	associates
depend on	rely on
times of crisis	emergencies
those surveyed	the people who were studied
mean of	middle number e.g. 4 is the mean of: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
social clique	group
in general	usually

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Listen to Newscast 1 again, and decide if the following statements are true or false. Put **T** next to true statements and **F** next to false statements.

1. All your Facebook friends are really your friends. _____
 2. The usual Facebook user has only 14 friends. _____
 3. All of your Facebook friends will help you in an emergency. _____
 4. If you have more friends on Facebook, you usually have more friends. _____
- (See answer key)

LISTENING ACTIVITY 3

Listen for the following numbers in Newscast 1, and put them in the correct category in the table below: An example is done for you.

5,000 13.6 50 4.1 14

Friends on Facebook	Close Friends	Mean of People in their Social Clique
		4.1

(See answer key)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Do you think that all of the people in your social network should be “real” friends? What are some advantages of having a large social network even if all of the people are not your real friends?

NEWSCAST 2: TIAN TIAN IS MAKING A LOT OF PEOPLE SMILE



<http://www.cbc.ca/news/trending/washington-zoo-panda-snow-1.3417345>

WARM UP

Push the play button or copy and paste the link above and watch the video of Tian Tian. Would you share this video with friends, and family? Why or why not?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Listen to Newscast 2 for overall comprehension. Then, circle your response to the following question:

How important was watching the video of Tian Tian to your understanding of the Newscast?

Not Important

Somewhat Important

Important

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Listen to Newscast 2. Listen for the following numbers. Put a checkmark (✓) next to the numbers when you hear them.

NUMBER	✓		✓		✓
18		265		1	
7.5		440,000		80,000	

LISTENING ACTIVITY 3

Listen for the numbers in Newscast 2 again. What does each number represent? The first one is done for you as an example.

NUMBER	REPRESENTS
18	year old panda
265	
1	
7.5	
440,000	
80,000	

(See answer key)

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Review the Social Media Lingo (Language) below:

Facebook is a popular free social networking website that allows registered users to create profiles, upload photos and videos, send messages and keep in touch with friends, family and colleagues.

A Facebook post or status update is a comment, picture or other type of media that a user puts on their Facebook page for their friends to see.

Views: watching a video for at least 3 seconds on Facebook or more than 30 seconds on YouTube is considered a view. The number of views are often listed under the video.

Share: A Facebook share is when you click the share button to share a photo, article, or video on Facebook. When the share button is clicked, the user's friends will then be shown the shared content when they view the user's Facebook page.

Twitter is a free social networking service that allows members to broadcast short posts called tweets. Twitter members can broadcast tweets and follow other users' tweets.

Tweet: short posts of 140 characters or less (letters or symbols – not words) that are uploaded to Twitter by cell phone or text message are called tweets.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Discuss the following questions with a friend or colleague:

How are companies using Facebook? Do you think it is important for companies to promote their products using Facebook? Do you think that companies should be able to post ads on Facebook? Why or why not? Is Facebook as popular in your country as it is in North America?

NEWSCAST 3: RICK MERCER'S LATEST RANT



<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/m Mercer-report-rant-energy-east-denis-coderre-1.3419646>

WARM UP

Do you watch Canadian comedy shows? Do you like shows that present the news in a humorous (funny) way? Are you familiar with Rick Mercer or his show called *The Rick Mercer Report*? Do you know what rant means? If not, look it up.

Rick Mercer is a Canadian comedian, television personality, political satirist and author. He is best known for his work on CBC television comedy shows *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* and *The Rick Mercer Report*. He is the author of three books, based on content from the television shows. Mercer has received more than 25 Gemini Awards for his work on television.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rick_Mercer)

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Review the word combinations (collocations) in the box below. You are given a simple definition of each word combination. Based on the definitions, try to understand the meanings of any new vocabulary.

Collocations	Meaning
ticked off	upset, angry, annoyed
opposition to	not in agreement
challenge to	test or difficulty with
proposed project	future or suggested plan
export terminal	station where goods are shipped abroad
latest rant	most recent angry lecture
goes after	attacks

enough in it	have sufficient benefit
nothing to do with	not involved with; not related to; not about
concedes that	admits that
addicted to	something we must have, use or do
sitting on	own or possess
whole bunch of	a lot of
best interest	something beneficial or advantageous
points out that	tells that
"have-not" province	poorer provinces
transfer payments	money the country gives to poorer provinces for healthcare, education, and welfare, so each province's average per person revenue is equal.
make sure	check, see that something is done
standard of living	someone's wealth or comfort level
all in this together	we are all affected; we are all one
is tanking	is failing
what's in it for	what's the advantage for

PRE-LISTENING ACTIVITY

Review the word combinations listed below once more before listening. You will hear these combinations in the newscast.

ticked off	goes after	sitting on	transfer payments
opposition to	enough in it	whole bunch of	make sure
challenge to	nothing to do with	best interest	standard of living
proposed project	concedes that	points out that	all in this together
export terminal	addicted to	"have-not" province	is tanking
latest rant	what's in it for		

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Now listen to the newscast again and fill in the blank with the word that you hear.

If you're an Albertan ticked off by Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre's opposition _____ Energy East, you're not alone.

The mayor's opposition is the latest challenge _____ TransCanada's _____ project, which would carry 1.1 million barrels of oil sands crude a day through Quebec to an export _____ in Saint John, N.B.

In Rick Mercer's _____ rant he goes _____ Denis Coderre for saying the pipeline proposal doesn't have enough _____ it for Montreal.

"This has nothing _____ do _____ Montreal, this has _____ to do with Quebec," Mercer said. "This is about one part of Canada trying to get their natural resources to the world market." Mercer concedes _____ while many Canadians "hate the fact that the world is addicted _____ oil and Canada is sitting _____ a whole _____ of it," it would be in the country's _____ interest to approve the project. "We all need this thing," said Mercer.

He points _____ that as a "have-_____ " province, Quebec received \$9.5 billion in transfer _____ last year to make _____ all Canadians have the same standard of _____.

It's a fund that Alberta pays into because of its oil wealth, even though the provincial economy is _____. Mercer reminded his viewers that "we are _____ in this _____ and it is time for provinces to start asking what's _____ it for Canada, not just what's in _____ for me."

(See answer key)

EXTENSION ACTIVITY:

Push the play button  or copy and paste the link in your browser to watch the video of Rick Mercer's Rant. After you have watched the video, think about how useful listening to Newscast 3 was to your understanding of the video of Rick's Rant.

SPEAKING ACTIVITY 1

Now try to summarize Rick Mercer's latest rant. Feel free to listen to it again. If you are in a class, work with a partner. Take turns to summarize the video. If you are doing this lesson independently, record yourself summarizing the story and play it back.

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Do you think that Rick Mercer's rant is a good way to address important political issues? Would you like to hear more of Rick Mercer? If yes, check out The Rick Mercer Report on CBC Television.

LANGUAGE FOCUS: STILL, YET, ALREADY

STILL - YET - ALREADY



1. Situations that continue to the present time

- It is **still** raining.
- I **still** live in London.
- They've been married for 30 years and are **still** in love.

2. Action that is not expected because of something else

- He was sick but he **still** went to work.
- I studied a lot though I **still** didn't pass the test.

1. To ask if something expected has happened.

- Have the test results arrived **yet**?
- I'm hungry. Is dinner ready **yet**?

2. To say something expected hasn't happened.

- I haven't done my homework **yet**.
- It's almost 11 o'clock and Steve hasn't woken up **yet**.

1. An action has happened sooner than expected.

- I have just finished lunch but I'm **already** hungry.
- I think John **already** knows about the surprise party.

WWW.GRAMMAR.CL

WWW.WOODWARDENGLISH.COM

ACTIVITY 1

Complete the following sentences with the correct adverb: **still**, **yet**, and **already**:

1. Is it _____ snowing?
2. My parents haven't arrived at the airport _____.
3. When I left the office, she was _____ working.
4. Have you _____ applied for your visas?
5. I called net support, but my computer _____ isn't working.
6. Have you finished your essay _____?
7. Have you seen the new Star Wars movie _____?
8. I haven't finished my work _____, so I can't go home.
9. She has _____ been to Paris, so she is going to London for her next vacation.

TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. This is Natasha Frakes. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of February 1, 2016.	0:00
Newscast 1 STUDY SUGGESTS ONLY 4 OF YOUR FACEBOOK FRIENDS ACTUALLY CARE ABOUT YOU	<p>Whether you have 5,000 friends on Facebook or 50, chances are some of them are not <i>really</i> your friends.</p> <p>A newly published University of Oxford study suggests the average Facebook user may have just 14 "close" friends amongst all their connections on the social network, and only four they can actually depend on in times of crisis.</p> <p>The study is the first real attempt to test whether online social media allows us to increase the size of our social networks. Those surveyed were found to have a mean of 4.1 people in their "social clique" and 13.6 "close" friends. Interestingly, subjects with more Facebook friends did not report having more friends in general.</p>	0:08
Newscast 2 TIAN TIAN IS MAKING A LOT OF PEOPLE SMILE Video link: http://www.cbc.ca/news/trending/washington-zoo-panda-snow-1.3417345	<p>The Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington, D.C. is closed but a video of one of the zoo's four pandas enjoying the snow is making a lot of people smile.</p> <p>The video was posted on the zoo's Facebook page and on Twitter on Saturday morning. It shows 18-year-old, 265-pound panda Tian Tian rolling in the snow, throwing it on himself and lying on his back almost as if he's making a snow angel.</p> <p>The caption on the video reads, "Tian Tian woke up this morning to a lot of snow, and he was pretty excited about it."</p> <p>By 1 p.m. Saturday, the video had been viewed 7.5 million times on Facebook and shared more than 440,000 times. It had been re-Tweeted about 80,000 times.</p>	1:06

<p>Newscast 3</p> <p>RICK MERCER'S LATEST RANT</p> <p>Video link: http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/mercier-report-rant-energy-east-denis-coderre-1.3419646</p>	<p>If you're An Albertan ticked off by Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre's opposition to Energy East, you're not alone.</p> <p>The mayor's opposition is the latest challenge to TransCanada's proposed project, which would carry 1.1 million barrels of oil sands crude a day through Quebec to an export terminal in Saint John, N.B.</p> <p>In Rick Mercer's latest rant he goes after Denis Coderre for saying the pipeline proposal doesn't have enough in it for Montreal.</p> <p>"This has nothing to do with Montreal, this has nothing to do with Quebec," Mercer said. "This is about one part of Canada trying to get their natural resources to the world market."</p> <p>Mercer concedes that while many Canadians "hate the fact that the world is addicted to oil and Canada is sitting on a whole bunch of it," it would be in the country's best interest to approve the project. "We all need this thing," said Mercer.</p> <p>He points out that as a "have-not" province, Quebec received \$9.5 billion in transfer payments last year to make sure all Canadians have the same standard of living.</p> <p>It's a fund that Alberta pays into because of its oil wealth, even though the provincial economy is tanking. Mercer reminded his viewers that "we are all in this together and it is time for provinces to start asking what's in it for Canada, not just what's in it for me."</p>	<p>2:08</p>
---	--	-------------

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 1: STUDY SUGGESTS ONLY 4 OF YOUR FACEBOOK FRIENDS ACTUALLY CARE ABOUT YOU

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

1. *if / whether* you have
2. *changes / chances* are some
3. *news / newly* published
4. study *suggests / supports*
5. *amongst / a monk* their connections
6. actually *deepen / depend*
7. in times of *crisis / Christmas*
8. the first real *effort / attempt*
9. social media *follows / allows*
10. *found / sound* to have
11. *this / those* surveyed
12. *meant / mean* of 4.1 people
13. *subjects / suspects* with more Facebook

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

1. All your Facebook friends are really your friends. F
2. The usual Facebook user has only 14 friends. T
3. All of your Facebook friends will help you in an emergency. E
4. If you have more friends on Facebook, you usually have more friends. E
(See answer key)

LISTENING ACTIVITY 3

Friends on Facebook	Close Friends	Mean of People in their Social Clique
5,000	14	4.1
50	13.6	

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 2: TIAN TIAN IS MAKING A LOT OF PEOPLE SMILE

LISTENING ACTIVITY 3

NUMBER	REPRESENTS
18	year old panda
265	pound panda
1	PM
7.5	million views on Facebook
440,000	shared on Facebook
80,000	times tweeted

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 3: RICK MERCER'S LATEST RANT

VOCABULARY ACTIVITIES 2 and 3

If you're An Albertan ticked off by Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre's opposition to Energy East, you're not alone.

The mayor's opposition is the latest challenge to TransCanada's proposed project, which would carry 1.1 million barrels of oilsands crude a day through Quebec to an export terminal in Saint John, N.B.

In Rick Mercer's latest rant he goes after Denis Coderre for saying the pipeline proposal doesn't have enough in it for Montreal.

"This has nothing to do with Montreal, this has nothing to do with Quebec," Mercer said. "This is about one part of Canada trying to get their natural resources to the world market."

Mercer concedes that while many Canadians "hate the fact that the world is addicted to oil and Canada is sitting on a whole bunch of it," it would be in the country's best interest to approve the project. "We all need this thing," said Mercer.

He points out that as a "have-not" province, Quebec received \$9.5 billion in transfer payments last year to make sure all Canadians have the same standard of living.

It's a fund that Alberta pays into because of its oil wealth, even though the provincial economy is tanking. Mercer reminded his viewers that "we are all in this together and it is time for provinces to start asking what's in it for Canada, not just what's in it for me."

ANSWER KEY FOR LANGUAGE FOCUS:

ACTIVITY 1

10. Is it still snowing?
11. My parents haven't arrived at the airport yet.
12. When I left the office, she was still working.
13. Have you already applied for your visas?
14. I called net support, but my computer still isn't working.
15. Have you finished your essay yet?
16. Have you seen the new Star Wars movie already?
17. I haven't finished my work yet, so I can't go home.
18. She has already been to Paris, so she is going to London for her next vacation.